

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Claims 16-19 and 53-56 are pending. No claims are being amended or canceled, and no new claims are being added. Thus, claims 16-19 and 53-56 remain pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks and arguments.

2. The Examiner rejected claims 16-19 and 53-56 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite, indicating that it is not understood how the search menu can be created using the metadata attributes if the search has already been performed.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16-19 and 53-56 are not indefinite. In accordance with independent claims 16 and 53, a search menu is dynamically created for the user when the user selects the graphical model of a component. The search menu includes the metadata attributes associated with the selected component as well as the values associated with those metadata attributes. The values for the dynamically created search menu are obtained by searching the component database using the metadata attributes associated with the component. In this way, the user is presented with a dynamically created search menu that includes a set of metadata attributes and corresponding values associated with the selected component. Once created, however, the search menu can be employed by the user to search for a particular component, for example, by changing the value associated with one of the metadata attributes. Thus, it is clear that, in order to dynamically create the search menu for the user, the system first obtains the metadata attributes associated with the selected component and then searches the component database to obtain values for those metadata attributes to be included in the search menu.

3. The Examiner rejected claims 16-19 and 53-56 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thackston in view of Beauchesne.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Thackston nor Beauchesne teach or otherwise suggest dynamic creation of a search menu in the context of a component search, as specified in the claims.

With regard to Thackston, the Examiner argues that column 36, line 65 through column 37, line 64 teach the claim element of dynamically creating a search menu using the metadata attributes and the respective values obtained from the component database. In fact, Thackston does not relate at all to component searches and does not dynamically create a search menu using metadata attributes and respective values obtained from the component database, as required by the claims. Rather, Thackston allows a user to search for a fabricator in a searchable registry of fabricators (i.e., the Global Manufacturer's Registry – see column 33, lines 54-58). Thackston's search initiation module may present to the user's browser a "search page" from which searches can be launched (see column 36, line 66 through column 37, line 2). However, Thackston's search page is clearly not dynamically created using metadata attributes and respective values associated with a selected component, because Thackston's search menu relates to fabricators (not components), is not generated upon selection of a graphical model, and is not generated using values obtained from a database.

With regarding to Beauchesne, the Examiner argues that column 3, lines 26-60 teach the concept of storing information pertaining to manufacturing assembly information which comprises a search menu using metadata attributes in a product database. In fact, Beauchesne does not relate to generation of dynamically created search menus, as in the claims. Rather, Beauchesne relates to generation of a bill of materials for an assembly, in which the user specifies a product assembly/revision and various database tables are searched in order to obtain pertinent information relating to the selected assembly for generation of a bill of materials (see, for example, column 3, lines 26-41; column 4, lines 41-58; and column 12, line 62 through column 14, line 18). Beauchesne clearly does not dynamically create a search menu using metadata attributes associated with a selected component of an assembly and respective values for those metadata attributes.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are allowable over Thackston and Beauchesne.

4. All pending claims are believed to be in a form suitable for allowance. Therefore, the application is believed to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully

requests early allowance of the application. The Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned, Jeffrey T. Klayman, if it will assist further examination of this application.

5. Applicants petition for a one month extension of time. In the event that a further extension is needed, this conditional petition of extension is hereby submitted, and Applicants request that deposit account number 19-4972 be charged for any fees that may be required for the timely consideration of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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